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**The Bird Book.** Illustrating in Natural Colors more than 700 North American Birds; also Several Hundred Photographs of Their Nests and Eggs. By Chester A. Reed. 471 pp. Index. Doubleday, Page & Co., New York, 1915. \$3. 10 x 8.

This volume is typographically and artistically one of the best that the reviewer has seen. Seventeen orders and more than 700 kinds of North American birds are comprehensively described. Most of these are splendidly illustrated in their natural colors, with photographs of their nests and eggs. Many other photographs show characteristic habitat groups. The typography of a bird is given on a frontal page, thus very materially assisting amateurs to an understanding of any technical terms used in descriptions. Combined with the splendid coloring, this establishes the book as one that amateurs may well use. All bird lovers should have a copy on their shelves. The descriptions include both common and scientific names, ranges, breeding habits, feeding and other habits, details of size, materials and other characteristics of nests, color markings, and size of eggs. The orders and families of birds also receive adequate treatment.

R. W. SHARPE.

**United States: Colonies and Dependencies.** The travels and investigations of a Chicago publisher in the colonial possessions and dependencies of the United States. By William D. Boyce. xvi and 638 pp. Maps, ills., index. Rand McNally & Co., Chicago, 1914. 9 x 6.

A western newspaperman's story of his personal investigations of those peoples upon whom our nation has exercised its national influence. His survey takes in Alaska, Hawaii, the Philippines, Porto Rico, the Canal Zone, Cuba, Santo Domingo and Haiti. Throughout, the newspaperman's art of getting at the facts through personal interviews with people on the spot is in evidence. It is asserted that the laws governing railroads and homesteads in Alaska are such as to retard the growth of the country. It is maintained strongly that the abandonment of United States sovereignty in the Philippines would be unwise and unjust and that it will be several generations before Porto Rico can be fully incorporated. Numerous high-class reproductions of the camera embellish the book.

**In the Oregon Country.** Out-Doors in Oregon, Washington, and California together with some Legendary Lore, and Glimpses of the Modern West in the Making. By George P. Putnam. xxi and 169 pp. Ills. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1915. \$1.75. 8 x 5½.

Enthusiasm for the Westland is the apology and motive for this breezy and natural account of personal experiences, canoeing, camping and "hiking" over the hinterland of Oregon. Theodore Winthrop's "Canoe and Saddle" is quoted for Indian legends of mountain and river. The ups and downs of homesteading in the sage brush lands opened by the government to settlers are pictured with realistic pathos. Those who are fond of "back-to-naturing" will enjoy reading this simple and unaffected narrative of actual contact with homely folk in the far west, and of the enjoyment of outings in the open air of Oregon. The Governor of the state writes an appreciative introduction. The reproductions of camera views are the best of their kind.

**Missouri River Basin.** By W. A. Lamb, Robert Follansbee and H. D. Padgett. Part 6 of Surface Water Supply of the United States, 1912. 375 pp. Ills., index. U. S. Geol. Surv. Water-Supply Paper 326. 1914. 9 x 6.

The Missouri River is considered navigable to Fort Benton, Montana, 2,285 miles above its mouth. Above Fort Benton for 49 miles to Great Falls the river consists of falls and rapids with an aggregate drop of 695 feet. The 217 miles above Great Falls to Three Forks, where the Jefferson, Madison and Gallatin Rivers form the Missouri, are navigable, but several power dams have broken the continuity of this waterway. Numerous pools and bars make low water navigation uncertain and a large number of snags make it hazardous. The maximum draft at mean low water from the mouth of the river to Kansas City is 4 feet,